

Message Text

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APPROVED BY EUR - GVEST
EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
H:TWESTON (INFO)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185449

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, US, CU

SUBJECT: VEST-MCGOVERN DISCUSSION OF CLAIMS/GOLD ISSUE

1. EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, EUR/EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS,
AND CZECHOSLOVAK DESK OFFICER MET WITH SENATOR MCGOVERN AND
STAFFER ON JULY 21 AT THE SENATOR'S REQUEST TO DISCUSS THE
CLAIMS/GOLD ISSUE AND THE SENATOR'S RECENT TRIP TO CZECHO-
SLOVAKIA.

2. CLAIMS/GOLD - SENATOR MCGOVERN SAID THAT, ON THIS FIRST
TRIP TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HE HAD LEARNED THAT ONLY CLAIMS/GOLD
SEEMS TO BE BLOCKING AN IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.
HE OFFERED TO APPROACH SENATOR LONG TO PERSUADE HIM TO DROP
HIS OPPOSITION TO A REASONABLE, NEW AGREEMENT. MCGOVERN
THINKS THE GOC IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN A SETTLEMENT.

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PAGE 02 STATE 185449

3. AFTER BRIEFLY REVIEWING PROGRESS IN US RELATIONS WITH
OTHER EE COUNTRIES IN THE PAST YEAR, VEST NOTED THAT THE
TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET INVASION AND THE GOC'S
BLATANTLY REACTIONARY HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY PREVENT US FROM
MOVING AHEAD NOW. OUR DECISION, AGREED TO WITH WHITE HOUSE
CONCURRENCE, WAS THE RESULT OF AN EXTENSIVE RE-EXAMINATION
OF THE SITUATION. VEST HAD SO INFORMED CZECHOSLOVAK AMBAS-

SADOR JOHANES BEFORE HIS RECENT VACATION IN PRAGUE. WE WILL

WANT TO BEGIN MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE IN NOVEMBER. AS IN THE CASE OF THE RETURN OF THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN, IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO RESOLVE. AT THAT TIME, VEST SAID, WE WILL NEED MCGOVERN'S HELP.

4. VEST NOTED THAT IT IS OF LITTLE USE TO BLUDGEON SMALL EE COUNTRIES OVER THE HEAD AND THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO TURN THE US/CSSR RELATIONSHIP AROUND. THE US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONSHIP COULD SERVE AS A MODEL. THE CASE OF US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS IS NOT HOPELESS. WE ALREADY KNOW THAT WE HAVE TO MOVE SLOWLY WITH THE EE COUNTRIES, WHICH, IN SEVERAL INSTANCES, HAVE LEARNED THE HARD WAY THE CONSTRAINTS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE USSR.

5. MCGOVERN APPROVED THIS TIMETABLE AND ASKED IF WE WOULD NOTIFY THE GOC OF OUR INTENTIONS AND WHAT ROLE THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT PLAYS. VEST SAID WE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN ADMINISTRATION APPROVAL OF OUR NEW PROPOSAL IN THE FALL AND SO WOULD NOT WANT TO NOTIFY THE GOC OF OUR INTENTIONS. HE ADDED THAT THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT IS SIMPLY ICING ON THE CAKE WHICH WILL FALL INTO PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME. VANCE

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